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Message Text

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15
ORIGIN EB-07

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66611
DRAFTD BY: EB-BJMOHLER:LS
APPROVED BY: EB-JLKATZ, ACTING
---------- 025893
R 142204Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
USLO PEKING BY POUCH

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USIA WIRELESS FILE ITEM IPS 25 (USIA TAPE WE-3) DATED MAY 13.

E.O. 11652: N/A

QUOTE

(HIGHLIGHTS) KISSINGER NEWS CONFERENCE, KANSAS CITY, MAY 13 (650)

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, MAY 13 -- AT A NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING A SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT IN KANSAS CITY, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SAID MAY 13 THAT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE AMERICAN MERCHANT SHIP MAYAGUEZ, WHICH WAS SEIZED BY CAMBODIA MAY 12.

NOTING THAT THE WORDS IN PRESIDENT FORD'S RESPONSE TO THE SHIP'S CAPTURE WERE "CAREFULLY CHOSEN," DR. KISSINGER SAID HE ASSUMED THE MATTER WAS NOT BEING TAKEN "LIGHTLY" BY THOSE WHO HOLD THE SHIP AND ITS CREW IN CUSTODY.

PRESIDENT FORD HAS INHERENT POWERS TO PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES AND PROPERTY, THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT, BUT HE SAID THAT IF UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDITIONAL STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO GAIN THE SHIP'S RELEASE THEY WILL NOT BE TAKEN WITHOUT CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS. RATHER THAN SPECULATE ON WHAT FURTHER MOVVES MAY BE MADE, THE SECRETARY SUGGESTED, TIME SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PERMIT THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO SUCCEED.

DR. KISSINGER SAID HE BELIEVED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS

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"FULLY UNITED ON THE COURSE THAT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN" AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT. THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO DEAL WITH IT IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY SAID AS FAR AS HE KNEW THE SHIP WAS CARRYING NO WEAPONS OR OTHER MILITARY SUPPLIES, ONLY MISCELLA EOUS CARGO. HE NOTED THAT THE VESSEL WAS ENGAGED IN PEACEFUL TRADE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, AND HE SAID THE U.S. WILL NOT ACCEPT HARASSMENT OF ITS SHIPS IN INTERNATIONAL SEA LANES.

ON OTHER FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES DR. KISSINGER HAD THESE RESPONSES TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS:

MIDDLE EAST:

DISCUSSING THE ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID PROBLEMS AROSE BECAUSE ISRAEL WAS ASKED TO GIVE UP TERRITORY IN RETURN FOR SUCH INTANGIBLES AS "STEPS TOWARD PEACE." BUT HE SAID HE PREFERRED TO CONCENTRATE ON THE FUTURE RATHER THAN "WHAT WENT WRONG" IN EARLIER EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

REGARDING POSSIBLE FUTURE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID "IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER BOTH OR EITHER PARTY COMES UP WITH SOMETHING" TO WARRANT A NEW INITIATIVE. "WE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH ANY IDEAS" PUT FORTH BY EITHER SIDE THAT MIGHT SPUR THE RESUMPTION OF THE SO-CALLED SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY, HE SAID.

SPEAKING OF A POSSIBLE ROLE FOR THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IN THE GENEVA TALKS, HE SAID THAT UNTIL THE PLO RECOGNIZES THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, NEGOTIATIONS WITH IT COULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN, "EVEN THEORETICALLY."

JORDAN:

HE SAID THE U.S. DECISION TO SUPPLY JORDAN WITH AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM WAS MADE MONTHS BEFORE KING HUSSEIN'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON. NOTING THAT JORDAN HAS BEEN "EXTREMELY MODERATE AND RESTRAINED," HE SAID THAT BY SUPPLYING JORDAN WITH SUCH EQUIPMENT THE U.S. ENABLES IT TO CONTINUE PURSUING MODERATE POLICIES AND RELIEVES PRESSURE FROM ITS NEIGHBORS AND OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

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CUBA:

DR. KISSINGER SAID THE U.S. IS NOT ON THE VERGE OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH CUBA. "WE ARE IN PRINCIPLE PREPARED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY," HE SAID. HE SAID THAT WOULD REQUIRE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT YET TAKEN PLACE, AND THEREFORE TO SPEAK NOW OF NORMAL RELATIONS IS "QUITE PREMATURE."

VIETNAM:

DR. KISSINGER NOTED THAT IN THE TWO YEARS FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS ACCORDS CONDITIONS CHANGED UNPREDICTABLY LEADING TO THE PRESENT SITUATION IN VIETNAM. HE CITED THE COLLAPSE OF THE U.S. EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY AS A RESULT OF WATERGATE, REDUCTIONS IN U.S. AID TO VIETNAM, AND LEGISLATIVE RESTRAINTS. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID A "DEBILITATING DEBATE" ON THE ISSUE. "IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE FACE THE FACTS WE NOW

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CONFRONT, WE WILL AND CAN DEAL WITH THEM," HE SAID.
AMERICANS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO HELP THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, HE SAID, AND HE ADDED HE BELIEVED THEY WILL BE GIVEN THE COMPASSION AND SUPPORT THEY DESERVE.
SOUTH KOREA:
ASKED IF NORTH KOREA MAY NOW BE EXPECTED TO AGAIN ATTACK SOUTH KOREA, DR. KISSINGER POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS STRONGLY REAFFIRMED THE U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENT TO SOUTH KOREA WHICH IS CONTAINED IN A TREATY RATIFIED BY THE SENATE.
HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WILL BE SUCH A MOVE "UNLESS NORTH KOREA QUESTIONS THE VALIDITY OF OUR COMMITMENT...WE HAVE 40,000 TROOPS THERE. " UNQUOTE KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED PEKING.

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